

REVIEW OF STRIKE CASE

RUDE TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT BY OPERATORS AND MITCHELL.

**Between Them They Have Caused
Dignity of Presidential Office
to Suffer.**

New York Christian Advocate.

The art of saying in the least offensive way a disagreeable thing that must be said is not understood by the operators. They really made a liberal proposition, and they were not satisfied with the terms and irritating statements. Suppose when they appeared before the President they had said something like this:

"Mr. President, we regret this situation as much as anyone can, and are ready to do everything in our power to ameliorate it. When disputes arise between our employees and ourselves concerning wages, hours and conditions under which work is to be done, but we cannot consistently with our own views, or the views of the community, in the relations we sustain to the multitude of stockholders whom we represent—confer in the first instance with any but those whom we employ."

"We respectfully represent to you that the union miners are not all who are affected by the strike. There are a large number of nonunion miners willing and anxious to work who are prevented from so doing by open violence and secret in-

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"Mr. President, we regret this situation as much as anyone can, and are ready to do everything in our power to ameliorate it. When the inevitable strikes occur, arbitration when disputes arise between our employees and ourselves concerning wages, hours and conditions under which work is to be done, but we cannot consistently with our own views, or the views of the nation in the relations we sustain to the multitude of stockholders whom we represent—confer in the first instance with any but those whom we employ."

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We are confident that if the authorities of the State of Pennsylvania, and the mining districts, long before this many of the strikers, the majority of whom did not return to work. All that we ask is that order be maintained. Nevertheless, as an organization, we feel that for the branch, we assure you, Mr. President, if our organization is not satisfied with the termination.

If the employers and employees at any particular colliery cannot reach a satisfactory agreement, the matter should be referred to the judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the district in which the colliery is situated for termination.

By GEORGE BAER.

"And agreed to by the other operators." If they had added, as they might have done, that the judges of the Court of Common Pleas are usually very experienced lawyers, and in the mining districts, where the difficulties arising between operators and miners are often very serious, Pennsylvania rank with Superior Courts of many other States, their case would have been a very different one. It is true that a large amount of public sympathy which went elsewhere would have flowed to the operators have been justly criticized.

"Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C. I have no doubt, reported to you the delivery of your message to me last Monday and my suggestion under advisement, although I did not look upon it with favor. I am united with our district presidents, who concur fully in my views.

"I desire to assure you again that we feel keenly the responsibility of our position and the gravity of the situation, and we are anxious to give pleasure to take any action which would bring about a strike to an end in a manner that would be satisfactory to all concerned.

"In proposing that there be an immediate resumption of coal mining upon the condition of a conference at the White House we believe that we are more than half way and had met your

"It is unnecessary in this letter to refer to the malicious assault made upon us in the past. I am confident that you must have been impressed with the fairness of our proposals, and that you are now fully convinced and signed us."

"The German Emperor in correspondence with one of the minor kings in Europe have been more brusque than to the messenger that 'I should take your suggestion into account, although I did not look upon it with much interest, but where he gives the President to understand that he is not at all satisfied with the expressions, 'We respectfully decline to advise our people to return to work.'"

"We met your wishes * * * and do not think should be asked make further sacrifice."

The lesson for all negotiators in church and state for the future is that employers, for presidents of colleges and ministers of the gospel, is to utter disagreeable words, but to be at least as offensive as compatible with a genuine conviction or the unwavering intention of the speaker.

Theodore Roosevelt, with the most humane and disinterested motives, exerted all his moral and personal influence to end the strike. For that we honor the men, though questioning the wisdom, in this particular, of the chief magistrate of the United States.


Every interest of the country is or may be involved in this situation before the courts. The Government has spent its force. Though the strike matters pressing for treatment more directly related to the work of the churches and the community are not the same in every department than any other Protestant body in the United States, and the Government is not sure that we cannot shake off the responsibility of contributing as much light as may be possible to the controversy.

Since the operators refused to accept the proposition of Mr. Mitchell to recognize the union, and the miners refused to do business with that body, and it became appar-

ent that they were men of sufficient decision to maintain the position which he had held from the beginning, the President saw that it was useless for him to appeal to them further.

But having entered into the conflict—no as the chief magistrate of the United States, but as the person filling that office—having peculiar relations to the people and having received particular marks of their regard and confidence—the same human motives which incited him to begin the effort to end the strike naturally prompted him to go further. Besides those motives which incited him and the increasing stringency of the situation as respects the sup-

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After the Horse Show

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The carnival and horse show rush being over we can from now on devote our entire attention to the



entire attention to the trade of Indianapolis. Our store was crowded all last week and our business was simply phenomenal, almost cleaning us

out of everything.

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